

PAST AND PRESENT  
OF THE  
CITY OF ZANESVILLE

AND  
MUSKINGUM COUNTY, OHIO

BY  
J. HOPE SUTOR

TOGETHER WITH  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF MANY OF ITS LEADING AND PROMINENT CITIZENS AND ILLUSTRIOUS DEAD

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ILLUSTRATED

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CHICAGO:  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING CO.  
1905

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JONATHAN GAUMER.

Jonathan Gaumer was for many years numbered among the worthy and honored pioneer residents of Muskingum county and moreover was one of her native sons. His birth occurred in Washington township, in June, 1822, and his parents were Daniel and Hannah (Baughman) Gaumer. His paternal grandfather, Jacob Gaumer, was born in Germany. When this country was still a part of the colonial possessions of Great Britain, he became a resident of the new world, establishing his home in Virginia and when the colonies could no longer endure the yoke of British oppression and rose in arms against the mother country he joined the troops under General Washington and served as a drum major in the army.

Daniel Gaumer was born in Virginia, April 10, 1781, but spent his boyhood days in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and in 1809 he removed to Washington township, Muskingum county, establishing his home upon a farm on the Muskingum river about seven miles from Zanesville. At the time of the war of 1812, he, too, espoused the

cause of his country and became a soldier. He carried on farming in Washington township for a number of years and about 1825 removed to Salem township, making his home near the Lutheran church. There he and his wife remained until called to their final rest, his attention being given to the development of his land which became very arable and productive. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and he was one of the earliest settlers of the New Hope Lutheran church. He donated to that church the ground that is now used for cemetery purposes. His landed possessions comprise one hundred acres and his farm was the evidence of his life of industry, perseverance and diligence. He passed away in September, 1859, when about seventy-five years of age, respected by all who knew him, and his wife departed this life in Salem township in 1874. They were the parents of the following named: Lydia, the deceased wife of David Shirer; Catherine, the deceased wife of V. Shirer; William, deceased; Esther, the wife of D. V. Shirer and a resident of Adams township; Jacob and Gideon, who have departed this life; Rebecca, the deceased wife of John Wymer; Daniel, who has passed away; Letterman, a resident of Guernsey county, Ohio; George, who is now living in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, and is a minister of the Lutheran church; Jonathan; Charles, a resident of Douglas county, Kansas; Jesse, who resides in Illinois; and Anthony, who died in the army.

Jonathan Gaumer, having acquired his literary education in the district schools of Salem township, afterward attended the Columbus Seminary and for some time was a student in a theological school but did not complete his course there. Later he engaged in teaching for four or five years and then worked at the carpenter's trade. He also operated a carding mill for some time and subsequently began farming, locating on a farm where his father also lived. There he remained until the death of his parents and in October, 1883, he removed to Adamsville, where he spent his remaining days. He was a man of strong purpose, honorable motives, of reliable business methods and genuine worth and his life record was very creditable and commendable.

On the 25th of October, 1846, Mr. Gaumer was united in marriage to Miss Mahala Barrett, who was born in Adams township, July 6, 1824. Her parents were John and Rachel (Heskett) Barrett, both of whom were natives of Loudoun county, Virginia, the former born August 8, 1794, and the latter on the 20th of January, 1792. In 1820 Mr. Barrett came to Muskingum county, settling in Adams township and there he owned and operated one hundred and sixty acres of land which he purchased from the government. It was entirely wild and unimproved when it came into

his possession but the years of labor which he devoted to it wrought a wonderful transformation in its appearance and in its productiveness. During the war of 1812 Mr. Barrett served as captain of a company. In his political belief he was an active whig, while in religious faith both he and his wife were Baptists. They were the parents of six children: Amelia A., Hannah J., Mahala, Thomas, Nancy J., and John, but the only one now living is Mrs. Gaumer. The father died October 3, 1862, and his wife passed away on the 26th of November, 1852. Mrs. Gaumer pursued her education in the public schools of this county and in early womanhood gave her hand in marriage to John W. Gaumer. They became the parents of nine children, eight of whom reached adult age; Thomas M., who was born February 6, 1848, was at one time half owner in the Zanesville Signal and at the time of his death he resided in Urbana, Ohio, being the owner of the Urbana Democrat. He was a graduate of the Cincinnati Medical College and for five years he engaged in the practice of medicine. He was well known throughout the county, having a favorable acquaintance, and his death, which occurred September 30, 1893, was deeply regretted. His wife bore the maiden name of Eliza Cone and they became the parents of three sons, one of whom is living in Middleton, Ohio, where he is publishing a paper and the second son is editor of the Urbana Democrat, while the third son is now editor of the Union County Journal. Charles M. Gaumer, who was born November 19, 1849, married Susanna Slater. He is one of the prominent and influential men of the state, serving as a trustee of Wittenberg College in Springfield, and also trustee of the Blind Asylum at Columbus, receiving appointment to this position from Governor Herrick. He was also a member of the state legislature and he takes a very prominent and helpful part in church work. Hannah J. Gaumer, born December 26, 1851, was married October 9, 1869, to Elijah F. Buker, of Adamsville, and now resides near that town. Her husband is deceased but she has two sons—Howard, a practicing lawyer of Zanesville, and Herbert, a printer of Zanesville. Rachel V., born March 17, 1854, is the wife of David R. Palmer, of Dresden, who for twenty-three years has been upon the road as a traveling salesman and they have one son, Dana C., who is a music teacher. John O., born November 26, 1855, died in infancy. Daniel H., born November 11, 1857, died in St. Augustine, Florida, in 1898. He married Emma Kennedy, December 24, 1882, and his widow lives on the terrace in Zanesville. He was a member of the house of representatives and of the senate in the state legislature, serving in both positions for one term, and he was filling the position of postmaster at Zanesville when his health failed, his death

occurring soon afterward. Martha and Mary, twins, were born June 15, 1865. The former is now bookkeeper at one of the banks in Zanesville and Mary is the wife of Joseph Dean, probate judge of Zanesville. Sidney A., born June 19, 1867, married Samuel H. Barr, of Washington township, and they have a daughter, Marv A.

Mrs. Gaumer now has a fine home in Adamsville and is a well preserved woman. She has long been a devoted member of the Lutheran church and Mr. Gaumer was a member of the church from his youth until his death, taking a very active and helpful part in its work and serving on the building committee at the time of the erection of the house of worship. He held the office of township clerk for six years and gave his political allegiance to the whig party until its dissolution, when he became a democrat. He held the position of postmaster in Adamsville and filled other local offices. He died September 1, 1895, when seventy-three years of age, leaving his family the priceless heritage of a good name. He was always honorable and upright in everything that he said and did, his entire life being in harmony with manly principles and with motives that would bear the closest investigation and scrutiny. His memory is yet cherished by those who knew him and this work would be incomplete without mention of one who was long a worthy citizen of Muskingum county.

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